

GOLD DISCOVERY PARK ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

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PAGE 1 OF 3

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Greet the Summer & Raise the Roof!

Coloma, May 26, 2004. Enjoy the beginning of summer with some old-fashioned fun at “ColomaFest--Small Town Summer Days” on Saturday, June 12, 2004, at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. The all-day event runs from 10 am until 6 pm and features a classic car show -- with cars, trucks and motorcycles -- old-time music groups, crafters and vendors, food and drink, and more.

This year’s event is hosted by the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, the Gold Discovery Park Association and the Coloma-Lotus Chamber of Commerce.

Music will keep visitors tapping their toes from 11 am until 6 pm, with Coloma Celtic, Coyote Hill, Old Time Confusion and other local barbershop and bluegrass musicians. Summertime shopping surprises will include hand-made jewelry, drawings and sculpture, hand-made wooden musical instruments, native plants, and other unique gift items. Hot dogs, sandwiches, beef jerky, shaved ice, beer, and wine will be on sale all day.

And while you're appreciating the good times with family and friends, you can know that all proceeds raised by the Gold Discovery Park Association (GDPA) at ColomaFest go toward putting a new roof on the Museum at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. The Museum roof's past patches have finally given way and blue tarps now cover the roof. Due to cutbacks to State Parks budgets, the GDPA has dedicated itself to raising funds for a new roof, as well as other Park needs.

Fundraising for the roof was kicked off by a \$10,000 challenge grant from PG&E. Local businesses who have helped meet the challenge include Dennis Amaral of Davis & Amaral Mortgage Consultants Inc., Joan & Gael Barsotti, Steve Shortes of Mother Lode Insurance, Doug & Lori Veerkamp of Doug Veerkamp General Engineering, and Daryl Hinz of Walker's Business Products & Services. In order to meet the challenge grant requirements, the GDPA continues to solicit for donations. They will also have special premium gift items for sale at ColomaFest, the profits from which will go toward the roof.

Every year over 53,000 school children studying California history visit the Museum each year – and another 300,000 visitors from all over the world come to see where the California Gold Rush began.

Set on the 280 acres of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park on Hwy 49 in Coloma, ColomaFest visitors can also visit the Park's Museum, picnic by the river, wander through some of the town's historic buildings, and pan for gold. Docents in period dress will share stories of life in times past. Demonstrations at the Blacksmith Shop continue throughout the day. Eugene

Hart, author of the children's book, "A Guide to the California Gold Rush," will offer a 30-minute slide presentation in the Museum, followed by a question-and-answer session. In addition, a book signing with Craig Carrozzi will feature his book, "The Curse of Chief Tenaya." Both books are available at the Gold Rush Mercantile in the Museum.

The Gold Discovery Park Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the interpretation and conservation of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. For information on becoming an event sponsor, please call the Gold Discovery Park Association at 530.622.6198.

You may visit the Coloma-Lotus Chamber of Commerce at www.colomalotus.com.

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